

Arguments on Whether 1st Resurrection Will be on Trumpets *or* Pentecost

GodsLawToday.com (2023)

Prior to reading this document, it will be extremely helpful to FIRST read the article entitled “End-Time Events: Part II.”

NOTE: It probably cannot be stated with **100% certainty** whether Christ will return to earth on Trumpets or on Pentecost. Yet, there is **much stronger** evidence for a return on Trumpets!

[The first 5 pages deals with “ARGUMENT #1.” After that, various other arguments are examined.]

ARGUMENT #1

Argument for a PENTECOST-Resurrection, based on Wave Loaves & Jubilee

The Day of Pentecost is *also* known by three other names: “The Feast of Weeks,” “The Feast of Harvest,” and “the day of the firstfruits.”

“And you shall observe **the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest...**” (Ex. 34:22). “Also on **the day of the firstfruits**, when you bring a new grain offering to the LORD at your *Feast of Weeks*, you shall have a holy convocation...” (Num. 28:26). “And the **Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits** of your labours, which you have sown in the field...” (Ex. 23:16).

The Day of Pentecost has a lot *to do with* harvest of Firstfruits. Again, Pentecost is also called “the Feast of Harvest.” Harvest of **what?!** The harvest of the “firstfruits”... that is, the harvest of those Christians in the FIRST Resurrection!

Notice, now, what God’s people were commanded to **do during the time of the Temple and Levitical priesthood**: “You shall bring from your dwellings **two wave loaves** of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked **with leaven**. **They are the firstfruits to the LORD**” (Lev. 23:17). Now verse 20: “The priest shall **wave them** [the items described in verses 18 and 19] **with the bread of the firstfruits [the leavened loaves] as a wave offering** before the LORD, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.”

Jesus Christ is the **First** of the Firstfruits to be **presented to** our Father **in Heaven**, and that happened for Him **on the Wave Sheaf Offering day Sunday**, the day *following* the weekly Sabbath that occurs *during* the Days of Unleavened Bread.

[Christ was *resurrected* on (near the end of) the weekly **Sabbath**, *not* on Sunday. It was almost 12 hours *after* that resurrection before Mary saw Him... and then some hours *after that* (on Sunday), before He *ascended* to His Father (John 20:1-17).]

Now, **WHAT was waved before God on Pentecost (“the day of the firstfruits”)?** It was the two wave loaves “baked with leaven. They are the **firstfruits** to the LORD” (Lev.23:17). They are “the bread of the firstfruits” (verse 20).

Let’s understand.

After Jesus Christ was resurrected (late on the weekly Sabbath Day, *during* the Feast of Un. Bread), **He did not go and appear before His Father in the 3rd Heaven until later on Sunday Morning, at the SAME TIME the Priest would be waving the “wave sheaf offering”** before God, at the Temple! (This occurred on Sunday at about 9 a.m., as we would reckon it today.)

Jesus Christ was the **First OF the Firstfruits** to be **presented in Heaven** to our Father... and that *happened* for Him **ON the Wave-Sheaf Offering day, on Sunday** (the Sunday that followed the weekly Sabbath occurring *during* the Days of Unleavened Bread).

Then, 7 weeks later (on Pentecost, Sunday), there was the “waiving of the two leavened loaves,” which **symbolizes** the still *future* ascension of God’s faithful men and women “Firstfruits” **into heaven, at the First Resurrection... which will occur on Pentecost Day.**

When Christ first appeared in the midst of the disciples following His resurrection, He “breathed” the Spirit upon them (John 20:22). Yet, it was soon thereafter, **on the Day of Pentecost**, that God gave the Holy Spirit **in power!**

Isn’t it logical to assume that He will *continue* that theme... of giving the *real Power (that is, an eternal SPIRIT-BODY of Godly Power)*... **also on Pentecost?** After all, Pentecost is “the Feast of First Fruits,” and we **are** the first-fruits.

Why the DOUBLE-Sabbath?

Many of you are aware of the 7th “year of release” (Sabbatical rest) that God originally commanded for the nation of Israel (Lev. 25:4). You are also probably familiar with how, after seven of the “seventh-year releases” (49 years), God commanded that there be a *special* Jubilee 50th year (Lev. 25:11). Hence, **TWO** consecutive Sabbatical years of “rest and release of all debts owed”... the 49th year *and* the bonus 50th year.

Here we have, by counting **Pentecost**, *a symbolism of* the seven complete Sabbath weeks (49 **days**), representing the 7 “seventh-year releases” (49 **years**)... and then the 50th **day** “Pentecost” being *like* the 50th Jubilee **year** of “*release of all debts* and restitution of family property.”

Notice the spiritual parallels here. Just as the 49th year was a Sabbatical year (along with the Sabbatical 50th Jubilee year, which was the time of **forgiveness of all debts and the restitution of family property**), so we have **a similar symbolism with Pentecost**. The 49th day in our count *to* Pentecost is a Sabbath day, and the 50th day, Pentecost, is *also* a Sabbath day... **representing the “Firstfruits” to follow Jesus who is the First of the Firstfruits.**

All debts of sins will be totally absolved when these faithful male and female servants of God are raised in the First Resurrection on Pentecost.

Just as Jesus Christ was represented symbolically *by* the Wave **Sheaf** Offering, so *we*, as the Firstfruits (two wave loaves *with* leaven), will be resurrected in the 1st Resurrection and be presented before the throne of God our Father and Jesus Christ.

REPLY, from those believing in a TRUMPETS-Resurrection:

The symbolism portrayed in the *Old Testament* Pentecost, **has ALREADY been fulfilled in New Testament times (beginning in Acts chapter 2) and is still ongoing!**

As for what the Living Church of God teaches concerning the “Wave Loaves” and Pentecost, let’s read some excerpts from their literature. (The Living Church of God was formerly known as The Global Church of God). Notice, first, what Roderick C. Meredith had to say in his 1998 (Global Church of God) booklet *THE HOLY DAYS—God’s Master Plan*:

The Wave Loaves [*sub-heading in the booklet*]

Now, before moving on, let’s notice one more thing about this Holy Day [of Pentecost]. As we’ve seen, a ceremony was to take place on it in which two *leavened* loaves of bread were waived by the priest as “the firstfruits to the LORD” (Lev. 23:17, 20). We today, understand that these two loaves represented the entire Church, those called by God from both Testament periods. Of great interest here, though, is the fact that the wave loaves were baked with leaven—especially when we consider that God said no grain offering brought to Him could be made with it (2:11). And that makes sense, since we’ve already seen that in the Bible [that] leaven most often represents sin and corruption. Yet there was one case where leavening *was* allowed to be offered: “As for the offering of the first-fruits, you shall offer them to the LORD, but they shall not be burned on the altar for a sweet aroma” (v. 12). Thus, they could be offered to God for acceptance—but He would He would not receive them as a sweet-savor offering since they had “sin” in them.

So does the fact that God accepted these loaves mean that He accepts sin? Never. But while still in the flesh, His people do still sin even though now converted (I John 1:8-10). That’s why the wave loaves were leavened—they symbolized **not a resurrected, unleavened Church**, but rather flesh-and-blood people still striving against sin in their lives, still at times falling short. Yet we are nevertheless raised up and **waived for acceptance right now—waiving simply being the way to present something to God, who is in heaven (cf. Ex. 29: 24, 26, 27; Lev. 7 :30, 34; 8:27, 29). In the case of Christ’s wave offering, He had to literally ascend into heaven to present His blood. But that is not so with us. Rather, we are accepted NOW because something else is waved with us—Christ’s sin offering, which “cancels out” our own leaven when we are offered [waved] before God! (cf. Lev. 23: 19-20).**

In ancient Israel, **the High Priest presented the Levitical priesthood before God as a wave offering, so that they then belonged to God** (Num. 8: 11-14).

[“and Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD *like* a wave offering from the children of Israel, that they may perform the work of the LORD. Then the Levites shall lay their hands on the heads of the young bulls, and you shall offer one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering to the LORD, to make atonement for the Levites. ‘**And you shall stand the Levites before Aaron and his sons, and then offer them *like* a wave offering to the LORD. Thus** you

shall separate the Levites from among the children of Israel, and **the Levites shall be Mine**” (Num. 8: 11-14).]

Even so, our High Priest, Jesus Christ, waves us—His spiritual priesthood (I Peter 2: 5, 9). **The Father then accepts us as His own**. Again, we are raised up and waived before Him now: “God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and **raised us up together [just like the wave loaves!]**, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **that in the ages to come** He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2: 4-7).

Of course, “the ages to come” is what we are truly waiting for—when we will be ultimately glorified, as pictured by the next Holy Day [Trumpets]. Nevertheless, the Feast of Pentecost reminds us that though God is now calling only a small spiritual harvest of firstfruits, He will **bless that harvest by EMPOWERING us with His Spirit so that we can overcome and grow spiritually at this time**.

Through the Holy Spirit, we receive the *spiritual* love of God—the kind of love we *must have* to fulfill God’s commandments and build His very character. Year by year, the Feast of Pentecost reminds us of our unique calling and of the strength we are given through God’s Spirit to, as 2 Peter 1:10 expresses it, make our “calling and election sure.” [Roderick C. Meredith, booklet *THE HOLY DAYS—God’s Master Plan*, July 1998, pp. 42-43, Global Church of God.]

Elsewhere, Pastor Meredith stated the following:

God’s third annual festival, the Feast of Pentecost or Feast of ‘Firstfruits,’ pictures the fact that only a **very small spiritual harvest is being reaped by God at this time**. God is *not trying* to save the whole world now.

God’s calendar is based upon the harvest seasons of Israel. It pictures for Christians the spiritual harvest God plans to reap—first, the small spring harvest pictured by the Feast of Firstfruits, then, at the *end* of this age [during the Millennium], the *massive* autumn harvest pictured by the Feast of Ingathering. (Roderick C. Meredith, *Tomorrows World* magazine, Jan. 2014, Living Church of God).

Now, notice this excerpt from the *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course*:

Pentecost is the day of the covenants. It is the day God entered into the *Old Covenant* with Israel at Sinai, and it is the day He began making a *New Covenant* with those upon whom He poured His Spirit.

...**Pentecost is the festival that focuses in on the Church Age.** It reminds us that, as firstfruits, we are **set aside for God and that we are consecrated to His service**. It also keeps us in mind of the fact that we represent only the beginning of those who will ultimately be in God’s great family. (“Pentecost—God’s People Made Holy,” *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course*, Lesson 15, July 2001, The Living Church of God)

Finally, consider this excerpt from an article by John H. Ogwyn:

...Israel was told that **the priest must ceremonially present, as a wave offering to God, the grain from the first-cut sheaf of the harvest. This ceremony was to occur on the day following the Sabbath that came during the Days of Unleavened Bread.** Only after that ceremony had been carried out could the people begin harvesting and eating their freshly ripened grain.

Traditionally, the first **sheaf** was **cut** at sunset when the weekly Sabbath ended. **The following morning, an omer** (about two quarts) of the freshly harvested grain was **waved** before God for His acceptance. **Later in the day, an unleavened loaf made from this grain was offered on the altar.** After this offering, the Israelites were free to begin their harvest which—beginning with the winter wheat and proceeding to the barley—spanned a period of seven weeks. It culminated in the celebration of the Feast of Harvest of firstfruits, also known as the Feast of Weeks.

On the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), seven weeks after the first omer of the harvest had been presented to God, two loaves of bread were to be offered to Him (Lev. 23:16–17). These two loaves were different from normal meal offerings in that they were leavened. What did these two different grain offerings symbolize? Why were the two loaves at the end to be *leavened*, and why were there *two* loaves offered on Pentecost?

The spring grain harvest represented the beginning, or firstfruits, of Israel’s harvest cycle. This cycle began in the spring and culminated in the fall at the Feast of Ingathering, better known as the Feast of Tabernacles. We are clearly told what the two loaves offered on Pentecost represented, “They are the firstfruits to the LORD” (v. 17). Why two loaves? Because the symbolism of the firstfruits must include both the Old Testament Church and the New Testament Church.

Jeremiah 2:3 makes plain that *Israel* represented the “firstfruits” of God’s increase. Yet, in James 1:18 we are told that the *New Testament Church* represents a firstfruits. One is physical Israel and the other is spiritual Israel, but both are the Church. Remember, Israel was not only a nation; it was also the Congregation of Israel—the Church in the Wilderness (Acts 7:38). The loaves are pictured as leavened because the Church in both the Old Testament and the New Testament has been made up of imperfect people. In other words, it has contained leaven. The Pentecost symbolism of the Old Testament points toward God’s harvest: the Congregation of Israel *and* the Church of God. That is why there were two loaves presented on Pentecost in the Temple.

Notice the contrast between these loaves and the loaf presented during the Days of Unleavened Bread at the beginning of the count toward Pentecost. **That loaf, made from the first grain harvested, pictured Jesus Christ, “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20).** Christ was *resurrected* at the end of the Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread, at the time that the first sheaf of grain was scheduled to be *cut*. Scripture gives us two accounts of His appearances to disciples on the morning after His resurrection, together demonstrating that **He was presented to the Father [in Heaven] at the same time as when the first omer was waved in the Temple.** In John 20:17, still very early on Sunday morning, Jesus would not let Mary Magdalene touch Him, “for I have *not yet* ascended to My Father...” Matthew’s account makes plain that later on the same day He did allow Himself to be embraced (28:9). Clearly, in the interim, **He had been accepted by the Father as the “firstfruits.”** (John H. Ogwyn, “Pentecost: Lessons from the Old Testament Church,” *Living Church News*, May/June 2010, LCG)

ALL of the remaining arguments *clearly* favor a Trumpets-Resurrection (rather than a Pentecost-Resurrection).

ARGUMENT #2

2nd and 3rd Bowl Judgments

Notice what happens when the 2nd and 3rd angels pour out their Bowls:

Then the second angel poured out his bowl **on the sea**, and it became blood as of a dead *man*; and **every living creature in the sea died**. Then the third angel poured out his bowl **on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood** (Rev. 16: 3-4).

If these 2nd and 3rd Bowl Judgments were to last more than a few days, then all life on earth would perish!! Obviously, if the Bowl Judgments begin soon after a **Pentecost-Resurrection**, then they would last **FAR LONGER** than a few days!! Thus, it **cannot** be a **Pentecost-Resurrection!**

[“**T**” represents a *pro-Trumpets* position; “**P**” represents a *pro-Pentecost* position]

ARGUMENT #3

How long *in the Place of Safety*?

T: You correctly believe, as scripture shows, that the “**Place of Safety**” will protect God’s people **for 1260 days** and that it will offer such protection **through the end of the 7 Bowl Judgments** (when Christ and His armies will then defeat the armies of the earth).

However, you believe that the **1st Resurrection** will occur on Pentecost, which is about **4 months PRIOR** to the time when Christ and His armies destroy the armies of the earth. You believe that **during that (approximate) 4-month period**, the resurrected saints will be **in heaven**.

How can they be **both in heaven AND in the Place of Safety for that (approximate) 4-month period?**

P: Think about it. Who is in the place of protection? The Church, right? Who is in the Church? Baptised and unbaptised, right? Are there children and teenagers in the Church? Yes. Will, children, teenagers and unbaptized be in the place of protection? Yes. Who will be in the 1st Resurrection?

Baptised converted men and women, right? [So, he's saying that *only the baptized will be in heaven* during that period lasting approximately 4 months.]

T: The above argument is false! Why? A careful reading of Rev.12: 6,14 (**quoted below**), shows that **the Church (“the woman”) will be IN A SPECIFIC “WILDERNESS” for the entire 1,260 days! Heaven cannot be considered a “wilderness”!!**

(Rev.12: 6 and 14) Then the woman fled into the **wilderness**, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days... But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the **wilderness** to her place, **where** she is nourished for a time and times and half a time [3½ yr], from the presence of the serpent.

Now, if all those in the Place of Safety who **have** the indwelling of God's Spirit, will **leave** to go to **heaven** for the final 4 months **OF** that 1,260-day period, **then they will NOT BE IN this specific “wilderness” for 1,260 days... AS those two verses in Rev. 12 says they will be!!**

ARGUMENT #4

The issue of Rev.15: 6-8

(Rev.15: 6-8) And out of the temple [in heaven (v 5)] came **the seven angels having the seven plagues** [“Seven Last Plagues” (v 1)], clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and **no one was able to ENTER the temple till the seven [last] plagues of the seven angels were completed.**

The Temple/Tabernacle in heaven (which the *earthly* ones were patterned after):

(Heb. 8: 1-5) Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of **the true tabernacle which the LORD erected, and not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices.** Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; **who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”**

(Heb. 9: 21-25) Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry... *Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—*

T: Now, even though we do not know *everything* that goes on in the Heavenly Temple, there are certainly things which “**routinely**” occur there! **Yet, if the saints are resurrected on Pentecost, then, according to Rev. 15:8, “no one” (neither the angels, nor the resurrected saints, nor Christ, nor the Father) will be able to enter the temple for a period of about 4 months! That sounds unbelievable!**

P: These statements in Revelation 15 are really a fulfillment of Christ’s parable **about the Wedding Supper, when the door is shut** on those without the wedding garment of Conversion.

We, as sons and daughters of God, **in the 1st Resurrection** are right there in front of the throne of God the Father and Jesus Christ. **We are in the throne room part of the heavenly Temple headquarters of God.** Obviously, anyone *not* in the 1st Resurrection can[not] enter or be there. The doors are shut, so to speak, [during the 4 month period while the 7 Last Plagues are being poured out]. **Only those with the wedding garment of conversion are there in the 1st Resurrection. During the next 4 months of the pouring out of the 7 last plagues on this Earth, will also allow plenty of time for the Marriage of the Lamb and preparations for Christ to return to Earth with tens of thousands of His saints.**

T: Your contention that Rev.15: 6-8 [quoted above] is a fulfillment of Christ’s parable about the Ten Virgins is an unproven *supposition*. More importantly, in your final sentence above, you are implying that the Marriage will take place **while** The 7 Last Plagues are being poured out. Will the Marriage take place before the Throne of God? Will it take place “in the throne room part of the heavenly Temple”? If so, then that **contradicts** Rev.15:8, which says “**no one was able to ENTER the temple till the seven [last] plagues of the seven angels were completed.**”

(Perhaps, however, you believe that those in the 1st Resurrection are ALREADY IN the Temple *prior* to the initiating of the 7 Last Plagues, and that they will **remain there** at least until the Wedding Supper is completed... thereby not needing to “**enter the temple**” *while* the 7 Last Plagues are being poured out.)

FAULTY Arguments

FAULTY ARGUMENT #1

“9 Days is *Insufficient Time*”

The argument is made that a Trumpets-Resurrection **does not afford sufficient time** for the 7 Bowl Judgments to be poured out and for the marriage to Christ to take place. **Yet, it is *clearly demonstrated in the article “End-Time Events: Part II” that 9 days DOES afford sufficient time!!***

FAULTY ARGUMENT #2

Occurrence of an end-time “DROUGHT” (and the necessary *time required* FOR such a drought)

P. A Pentecost-Resurrection would allow for about 4 months for the pouring out of the 7 Bowl Judgments... **one of which is an intense DROUGHT that dries up the River Euphrates**... and for the final huge army from the Kings of the East to cross over the river and join with the remaining armies of the Beast to fight against Christ when He returns **with** His saints.

T. **The Bible does NOT indicate an “intense drought”... nor is an intense drought required for the drying up of the River Euphrates!!**

Of the 7 Bowl Judgments, *only* numbers **4** and **6** could *possibly* be considered to be a “drought.”

#4 “Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him **to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat...**” (Rev.16: 8-9 *NKJV*).

However, consider that mankind can be scorched with “great [and painful] heat” *in just a matter of a few days!*

#6 “Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl **ON the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared**” (verse 12).

This scripture does **not** say it was a “drought” which dried up the Euphrates. Rather, this “bowl” was poured out **specifically and miraculously ON the River Euphrates**, resulting in the drying up of that *specific* river... enabling the vast army massed on the eastern bank of the Euphrates to cross to the other side.

One might ask, was an “intense drought” required to dry the river-bed of the Red Sea so that the Israelites could pass over it? No! It was done miraculously!

FAULTY ARGUMENT #3

The argument that trumpets were sounded on *all* the annual holy days, not *just* on the Feast of Trumpets.

The following 2 passages **do** appear to show that trumpets were to be blown on **all** the annual holy days:

(1) (Num.10:2-10, *NKJV*) ² Make two silver **trumpets** for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps.... ⁷And when the assembly is to be gathered together, you shall blow, but not sound the advance. ⁸The sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; and these shall be to you as an ordinance forever throughout your generations. ⁹”When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies. ¹⁰**Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings;** and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I *am* the LORD your God.

(2) (Ps. 81:3, *NKJV*) **Blow the trumpet** at the time of the New Moon, At the full moon, **on our solemn feast day.**

HOWEVER... as to whether the First Resurrection occurs on Pentecost *or* on The Feast of Trumpets, this argument about “trumpets being blown on *all* the holy days,” is actually **irrelevant!** Why? Because “**the last trumpet**” is marked, **NOT** by the blowing of trumpets on an annual holy-day, but *rather* by the blowing of the “**seventh angel’s trumpet**”! [See p.13 “Festival of Trumpets (plural)”]

Remember, there are 7 angels referred to in Rev. chapter 8—and each angel has a trumpet. When the 7th angel blows his trumpet, that **IS** “the last trumpet” (I Cor. 15:52)—**marking the First Resurrection.**

FAULTY ARGUMENT #4

The Feast of Trumpets and “WAR”

P: The end-time Feast of Trumpets is a day of the *fulfillment* of the LORD’s Vengeance & WAR upon the recalcitrant rebellious nations under the control of Satan. It is a day of gloominess, darkness, hailstones and war... **NOT** the cheery bright time of the 1st Resurrection! Why would anyone believe that a WAR-Feast [Trumpets] would indicate a resurrection?

T: **Regardless of whether the 1st Resurrection occurs on Pentecost *or* on Trumpets, in *either case* it will occur *during* the one-year period of God’s wrath being poured out! The *entire* one-year “Day of the LORD” (not *just* the 7 Bowl Judgments) is a time of *devastation!***

Furthermore, “the day of gloominess” (Joel 2:2 and Zeph. 1:15) refers **NOT** specifically to the Day of Trumpets, but rather to the (1-year) “Day of the LORD”—as shown in the *context* (Joel 2: 1-11 and Zeph.1: 7-18).

Also consider this: LCG teaches that the Great Battle occurs days **AFTER** The Day of Trumpets!! Notice that the Bible nowhere states that there will be a battle ON the Day of Trumpets!!

Although trumpets were often associated with warfare in the Old Testament, The Church of God, in past years, *wrongly* came to the conclusion that the Day of Trumpets (which would usher in Christ's return) would be *accompanied* by a great battle ON that very day.

More recently, however, notice these *two* quotes from John H. Ogwyn concerning this coming Day of Trumpets: “the Feast of Trumpets is an annual reminder of **God’s coming intervention in world affairs**, and of the time when the saints will finally put on immortality and enter into glory!” (LCG Bible Study Course, Lesson 16). “the Feast of Trumpets **represents the time of God’s intervention and judgment...**” (booklet *Revelation The Mystery Unveiled!* Oct. 2003, p.42, Living Church of God).

Yes, INSTEAD of announcing an IMMEDIATE BATTLE, this “Day of Trumpets”—along WITH the blowing of the “The Last Trump” by the 7th angel— announces the following *three* MOMENTOUS events:

(1) The takeover of the nations by the Kingdom of God is announced! “Then the **seventh** angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world **have become** the kingdoms of our LORD and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” (Rev.11:15).

(2) The resurrection of the saints (I Cor.15:52)

(3) The beginning of “The Third Woe” (The 7 Bowl Judgments)... which culminates, JUST DAYS LATER, with the Great BATTLE!

[continued below]

Appendix

Christ's Return to Earth WITH His Armies:

P: Those who believe that the First Resurrection will occur on **Pentecost**, believe that when Christ returns to earth **4 months later WITH His saints**, that *this* return will occur on the Feast of **Trumpets** ...and that the trumpets *sounding* on that Feast of Trumpets are, in effect, a call to the “the **battle** of that great day of God Almighty” (Rev.16:14-16; Zech.14:1-3; Joel 3:2, 9-16).

T: The scriptures quoted immediately above, merely refer to the coming end-time battle. They do **not** support the idea that Christ returns on Pentecost... **nor** do they support the idea that Christ returns *with His saints* on the Feast of Trumpets! To believe the theory stated above, one must **ASSUME** that it will be on the Feast of Trumpets when Christ returns **with His saints!**

As for the trumpets (which sound on the Feast of Trumpets) being “**a call to war,**” see the discussion just above entitled “**The Feast of Trumpets and ‘WAR.’**”

Furthermore, having done a computer-search of *all* scriptures speaking of “trump” and “trumpets,” there seems to be **NO scripture which speaks of any trumpets sounding when Christ returns WITH His saints.**

“Behold, I am coming as a thief..”

Those who believe that the First Resurrection will occur on **Pentecost**, make an *issue* over the following scripture: “**Behold, I am coming as a thief.** Blessed *is* he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame” (Rev. 16:15).

T: Rev. 16:15 is an *insert* verse, placed there as a *final* warning to the reader to be watchful and to follow the admonition of Rev.1:3—“Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.” Likewise, notice the warning to the *Laodicean* Christians: “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see” (Rev. 3: 17-18).

These are all general warnings to be watchful and spiritually clothed, so that we do not have to face the horrendous times ahead.

P: The whole of Rev. 15: 1-8 refers to and describes the first fruits in the 3rd Heaven, in the presence of our Father, *after* the First Resurrection and *before* the 7 last plagues are poured out on the Earth.

(Rev. 15: 1-8) Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: **seven angels having the seven last plagues**, for in them the wrath of God is complete. ² **And I saw something like a sea of glass** mingled with fire, **and those who have the victory over the beast**, over his image and over his mark *and* over the number of his name, **standing on the sea of glass**, having harps of God. ³ They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: “Great and marvelous *are* Your works, LORD God Almighty! Just and true *are* Your ways, O King of the saints! ⁴ Who shall not fear You, O LORD, and glorify Your name? For *You* alone *are* holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.” ⁵ After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. ⁶ And out of the temple came **the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen**, and having their chests girded with golden bands. ⁷ Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. ⁸ **The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.**

T. That might very well be true, at least the first 4 verses, anyway.

 When the Seventh Seal is opened, there will be 7 Trumpets which will *sequentially* sound during that final one-year period leading up to the Millennium. LCG Pastor Wallace G. Smith stated the following: **“The 1st Trumpet, LIKE the 7th Trumpet, occurs ON the Feast of Trumpets”** [statement made near the end of Pastor Smith’s *sermon* entitled “Feast of Trumpets 2019: Why Trumpets?”].

Notice a *similar* statement in the LCG Bible Study Course, Lesson 16 [by John Ogwyn]:
 “...the [one-year] Day of the LORD— **the final year of man’s misrule**... This series of end-time events **may very well BEGIN and END on the Feast of Trumpets itself**...”

Consequently, that would mean that “The Day of the LORD” is actually a little (more than a week) **longer** than “1 year.”

Festival of Trumpets (plural)

Leviticus chapter 23 introduces us to God’s *annual* holy days: “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘In the seventh month, on the first *day* of the month, you shall have a sabbath-*rest*, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation” (Lev. 23: 24).

So, God commanded that *multiple* trumpets are to be blown on this annual Festival day. In fact, the *name* of the day is “a day of blowing the trumpets” (Num. 29:1), or “a memorial of blowing of trumpets”

(Lev.23: 24). *Instead* of “The Day (or Festival) of Trumpet,” it is “The Day (or Festival) of Trumpets” (**plural**).

Now, In Revelation chapter 8, we read of 7 angels, each having a *trumpet*... and those 7 trumpets will be *sequentially* sounded during the final one-year period leading up to the Millennium. When it comes time for the Seventh Angel to blow his trumpet, Christ will return to the earth, and (at the *same* time) the “dead in Christ” will be resurrected to meet him (I Cor.15: 51-53; I Thess. 4:16). **Both** of those events will occur **on** the annual Festival of Trumpets.

Yet, one might wonder: On this *particular* Festival of Trumpets—the one which coincides with Christ’s return—why does scripture refer to only *one* trumpet being sounded? After all, it is the Festival of Trumpets (plural).

The answer is that there will certainly will be **other** trumpets blown on this day, ***in addition to*** the sounding of the Seventh Angel’s trumpet!

God’s people who are still alive and in The Place of Safety, will certainly be observing this annual holy day and will be blowing one or more shofars/trumpets in anticipation of Christ’s impending return!

Likewise, on this momentous day (which **fulfills** what this annual Festival of Trumpets has always pictured), it would not be surprising to hear angels—along with humans—blowing their shofars/trumpets! Such is not mentioned in the Bible, but it could certainly be a part of the marking of that awesome day!

Furthermore, we read the following in Matthew chapter 24: “...they [all people of the earth] will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. **And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other**” (verses 30-31).

Here, Christ will **send His angels out, to gather together the elect** (both those living *and* those just resurrected). Could this ***gathering and directing*** of the people *by the angels* be done in a manner *similar* to how it was done in Ancient Israel... when **trumpets** were used to **gather** the people and **direct** their movement? (Num.10: 2-5).

Also see “**From Trumpets to Atonement**,” Wallace G. Smith, *Living Church News*, Sept/Oct 2018: <https://www.lcg.org/lcn/2018/september-october/trumpets-atonement>